

TCT Meeting Notes

Conference Call
November 12, 2014

The conference call started at 9:00 am.

Note: This TCT meeting was originally set up as a face-to-face meeting in Portland and was scheduled to occur from 10:00 am to noon due to meeting room availability. An agenda was distributed to the group ahead of this meeting that showed a start time of 10:00 am. A subsequent decision was made to change the format of the meeting to a conference call-in setting. However, the time presented in the agenda was overlooked and not revised to match the typical start time of 9:00 am as shown in the calendar invitation. As a result, a few parties entered the conference call at 10:00 am. These parties were provided an overview of what was discussed during the previous hour.

Community Involvement Update

There was no community involvement update report due to Kay and Alana not being present.

Early Actions Update

River Mile 11 East

EPA summarized a meeting held with the RM11E Group on November 5, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss incorporation of additional data collected by the RM11E Group. EPA reviewed the data and determined that the new data set will not be incorporated into the Feasibility Study (FS) database used for FS analysis because it does not change evaluation elements at the FS level to warrant the extra effort for incorporation. Essentially, a lot of FS work already started would need to be redone that would further impact the schedule. EPA pointed out that the RM11E Group disagrees with this decision.

EPA reminded the RM11E Group that more than surface data would be needed for consideration of incorporation into the FS and reassured them that the data will be incorporated into the Administrative Record for Portland Harbor. Furthermore, FS Section 1 will be revised to recognize this additional data was collected.

TCT Member Question: The RM11E Group questioned what the purpose of these data would be since additional data will be collected ahead of the design phases?

EPA Response: The data will provide good baseline data to track trends, especially the pore water sample results.

TCT Member Question: We understand at RM11E that there is a problem with the upriver pore water sampling effort?

EPA Response: We will need to evaluate that issue, possibly with additional data. This could be an issue in comparing background with the pore water sampling. This may require additional upstream sampling.

Terminal 4

EPA moved on to discuss status of the compensatory mitigation at the Alder Creek Site (Port of Portland's desired mitigation site for Phase 1 – Terminal 4 removal action).

The Port missed a deadline for review commitments and cannot use the site for 404 mitigation. It is imperative that the Port run through the 404 process. The Port is no longer interested in support credit at the Alder Creek site. The Port will need to move on and find an alternate site.

Arkema

EPA is currently waiting to hear an outcome on the dispute regarding the decision to incorporate additional data collection efforts into the FS. A decision should be coming soon.

Gasco

Activity is occurring through the uplands program. There is continued data collection in-water for groundwater flux measurements via sensitive temperature measurements. There are preliminary indications that more data points will be warranted to corroborate conclusions from the limited survey area.

RI Report Update

EPA met with LWG twice regarding the RI Report – once with senior managers and once with the project staff.

RI Section 5 – Nature and Extent of Contamination

This section is complete and all issues have been resolved with LWG.

RI Section 10 – Conceptual Site Model

EPA and LWG discussed the revised format of this section and reached agreement; the focus up front will be on PCBs. LWG will be approaching this as a clean rewrite.

RI Section 7 - Background

The dispute on background is ongoing. The timeframe for resolution is currently uncertain on this topic. EPA dispute review has focused their attention on the Arkema dispute first. After the Arkema dispute response has been submitted, then attention will be focused on the RI Section 7 dispute. The dispute reviewer has a lot of other items on the to-do list, but EPA hopes this will be resolved by December 2014. Then all focus can be placed on the FS.

TCT Member Question: Does EPA feel there is resolution on Section 10 and will not be surprised with what LWG will produce?

EPA Response: EPA went back to guidance document for the structure and format of this section. Section 10 will start with Nature and Extent that touches on a broad presentation of contaminants, then it will get into focused COCs. EPA is confident this will be an acceptable version of Section 10.

TCT Member Question: Will Section 10 be final?

EPA Response: It will be a draft final. EPA will review the document with possible minor comments/revisions, then it will go out final with the entire RI Report.

FS Report Update

Section 2

EPA has reviewed all TCT comments and organized them sequentially. EPA is preparing responses and anticipates having responses completed by November 26th and sent out to the TCT group. EPA will discuss responses during the TCT meeting to be held on December 10th.

Section 3

EPA is meeting with CDM Smith on November 13, 2014 to go over main technical elements and the process for completing FS Section 3. This process and the technical approach will also be presented on December 10th.

TCT Member Question: Will EPA be doing a presentation at the Community Advisory Group (CAG)?

EPA Response: EPA has not talked about how we will be providing information to the CAG, but we recognize an update to them is needed. EPA has sent out tentative topics to the CAG pertinent to FS Section 3.

A final decision has not been reached on whether EPA and LWG will continue to work on a section-by-section basis for the FS. The current process with LWG has become a time sink and is not working for keeping pace with the schedule.

TCT Member Question: Did LWG have any input over this proposal to not engage with EPA on a section-by-section basis?

EPA Response: EPA is likely going to discuss this during a November 19th meeting with LWG. EPA will let TCT members know the outcome of this discussion.

DEQ Source Control Update

DEQ not present (see below).

Natural Resource Trustees (NRT) Update

We are working hard to achieve settlements; not public record / settlement confidential. It is a cumbersome process.

An assessment (Phase 2) with PRPs for settlement allocation has been conducted; not final.

EPA Question: What is needed for Phase 4 assessment? A completed FS or Proposed Plan?

NRT Response: We will not be taking this on until the Proposed Plan is released.

Regarding damage assessment - We are looking at one to three projects for allocation credit to be implemented next summer.

Upcoming Meetings

- EPA will be meeting with Win Porter, a former EPA official in the 1980s, now a consultant/lobbyist for the Port visiting with EPA tomorrow, November 13, 2014. EPA will be providing a summary of what is being done and is unsure of Win Porter's intentions for the meeting. EPA's presentation will provide Win Porter context to the status and complexities of the project.
- Next week (November 18) there is an EPA/LWG project managers meeting.
- A senior managers meeting is scheduled for November 19th.
- November 24th: Dennis meeting with congressional staff and the governor (or governor's senior staff).

EPA Question to TCT: Do we cancel or keep the November 26th TCT meeting? Some TCT members preferred to have it, while others will be out. A decision was made to keep this meeting scheduled to provide an update on the outcomes of the November meetings.

- November 26th TCT Meeting
- December 8th Meeting: Portland Harbor executive and partners meetings. EPA has sent out an email to hold the date. The partners meeting will be in the morning.
- December 10th Meeting: A face-to-face TCT meeting will be held to discuss FS Section 2 comment responses and FS Section 3 technical elements.
- December 24th meeting will be cancelled.

Kristine Koch is taking the day after Thanksgiving off. She is also taking December 24th through January 2nd off.

Sean Sheldrake will be taking the last two weeks of December off and will be back on January 5th.

Project Schedule

EPA recognizes that the project is off schedule. EPA is still working to have an FS completed by 2015.

EPA reassured the TCT that there will not be any shortening of the scheduled TCT review time. The schedule is dependent on how the LWG review process moving forward works out.

Discussion Topics

No comments received on the October 29th meeting notes.

TCT meetings going forward: 2nd and 4th Wednesday meetings for each month; 2nd week meeting of each month will be face-to-face meeting in Portland, and the 4th Wednesday meeting will be via a conference call.

Food Web Model Meeting

EPA reviewed and worked on model inputs last week. EPA provided the TCT a briefing of the issues with the Food Web Model (FWM). After the EPA team relooked at the model and model inputs it was determined that the FWM version that LWG provided to EPA is acceptable.

Information provided in the report table was incorrect and did not match the correct values actually being used in the model. This will require revisions to the appendix to reflect the FWM that we have.

10:00 am Start

10:00 am - DEQ and some others joined the meeting at 10:00 am due to a 10:00 am start time shown on Agenda. DEQ provided an uplands update. Kristine, Sean and Elizabeth (EPA Team) provided a review of topics discussed during the first hour (presented above).

DEQ Uplands Update

DEQ sent out FS reports for TCT input on FS documents for Willamette Cove and Gunderson (regarding riverbank FS).

DEQ is focused on completing the draft source control summary report. DEQ is targeting a November 19th delivery date.

Issues with Arkema treatment plant due to metals (iron levels). They had an exceedence of DDT. We think it is related to an iron adsorption issue; they are replacing the GAC and adding a turbidity meter to ensure they are trapping particulates.

November 1st DEQ asked for review of the Linton terminal restoration project. The public comment period announcement is not correct.

TCT Question: What are the relevance and importance of review of Willamette Cove and Gunderson?

DEQ Response: Both have in-water aspects related to riverbanks. However, Willamette Cove is primarily beach/upland type work whereas Gunderson focuses on riverbank work.

DEQ Question: Cancelled CAG meeting confirmed? EPA response: Yes.

10:20 am – Meeting adjourned